Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SMS-01 BIB-01 /068 W

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R 181608Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5777 INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PARIS USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PROP, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRAVDA CRITICIZES PRESIDENT

- 1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. BRIEF BUT NASTY WASHINGTON DATELINED TASS ARTICLE IN PRAVDA AUG. 18 ENTITLED "GLOBAL ESPIONAGE" REPORTS PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE CIA. ARTICLE STATES PRESIDENT ASSIGNED HIS CIA AUDIENCE THE TASK OF "ORGANIZING A GLOBAL SYSTEM OF ESPIONAGE FIRST OF ALL DIRECTED AGAINST THE USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." PRESIDENT IS CITED AS STATING THAT THE SPHERE OF CIA ACTIVITY WILL FURTHER WIDEN TO EMBRACE THE WHOLE WORLD, "INCLUDING OUR CLOSEST ALLIES AND FRIENDS." END UNCLASSIFIED.
- 2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. ARTICLE'S PORTRAYAL OF THE PRESIDENT AS SEEKING TO DIRECT THE CIA PRIMARILY AGAINST THE USSR DEPARTS FROM THE USUAL SOVIET PROPAGANDA LINE DEPICTING PRESIDENT AS SUCCUMBING TO PRESSURE FROM ENEMIES OF DETENTE. THE NATURE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE OCCASION MAY HAVE INFLUENCED THIS HARSH CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT. WE WILL BE WATCHING TO SEE WHETHER SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS HAVE RECEIVED NEW GUIDELINES ON TREATING THE PRESIDENT. TOON

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